GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4523
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
UNSPENT FUNDS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs.281.08 crore provided for development of roads network under capital section during 1997-98 has remained unutilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rs. 41.02 crore and Rs.151.40 crore also remained unspent under works pertaining to national highways, permanent Bridge-Fee fund from 1997-98;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken to tone up the authority responsible for the above?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (MAJOR GENERAL (RETI KHANDURI, AVSM)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. As against the total grant of Rs.2105.86 crore, the actual expenditure incurred was Rs.1824.78 crore resulting in saving of Rs.281.08 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The provision in Permanent Bridges Fee Fund is made having regard to likely collections on various permanent bridges in the country. At Revised Estimate stage, the Budget Estimate of Rs.83.00 crore was reduced to Rs.50.00 crore due to less collection.The actual expenditure however, was Rs.41.98 crore resulting in saving of Rs.41.02 crore. During 97-98, the allotment for National Highway (Original) works was reduced to Rs.1215.78 crore against which the actual expenditure incurred was Rs.1131.64 crore resulting in saving of Rs.151.40 crore with respect to the Original Grant of Rs.1283.04 crore and net saving of Rs.84.14 crore with respect to actual allotment. This was due to slow down in progress of schemes, delay in the issue of Letter of Credit by some States, land acquisition problems, environmental clearance problems and cutting of trees, etc.

(e) Concerned authorities have been instructed to monitor the flow of expenditure with utmost prudence by keeping in view the progress of work of each project and scheme and taking up the matter with various authorities associated with the jobs. In addition to it, quarterly review meetings on physical and financial progress of schemes are being held.